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VAN TREES.

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(The following description of a battle, written by B. F. Taylor, has never been excelled by the best efforts of the masters of the poet's art.) Then the ratting roar of the musketeers, And the maffed drums and the rallying cheers, And the rifles burn with a keen desire.

Like the crackling whips of the hemlocks fire, And the sighing shot and the shricking shell, And the sighing shot and the shattered hell, And the great white breath of the cannon smoke, As the growling guns by the batteries spoke In syllables dropped from the thunder of God—The throb of the cloud where the drummer boy trod. The throb of the cloud where the drains trod.

And the ragged gaps in the walls of blue.

Where the iron surge rolls heavily through That the colonel builds with a breath agai As he cleaves the din with "Close up men

And the groan torn out from the blackened lips.
And the prayer doled slow with the crimsoned drips.
And the beamy look in the dying eye,
As under the cloud the stars go by!
But his soul marched on, the captain said,
For the soldier in blue can never be dead! As the statues carved in an ancient hall, And they watch the whirl from their breathl

ranks,
And their spurs are close to their horses' flanks,
And the fingers work, of the sabre hand—
Oh, to bid them live, and to make them grand!
And the bugle sounds to the charge at last,
And away they plunge, and the front is past,
And the fackets blue grow red as they ride,
And the scabbards, too, as they clank by their side; the dead soldiers deaden the strokes iro

And the deal solders deaden the strokes iron shod,
As they gallop right on o'er the plashy red sod—
Right into the cloud right spectral and dim,
Right to the guns, black-throated and grim,
Right down on the hedges bordered with steel,
Right through the dense columns, then "right
about wheel!"

ONE WINTER NIGHT.

FIRST NARRATIVE. The wind blew keenly from the north, and cut like frozen knives. Out in the darkening street my horse and twilight gathered. "Why, bless me, Annie, I might be

going to Japan," I exclaimed, buttonng my great coat hastily; not caring to show how unwilling I was to lose the warm touch of my young wife's loving hands. "Be quick, deer, and hand me over the case of wateres from the hall table there."

"I wish you weren't going alone with these in your pocket, Jeorge," she said, looking from the compact Geneva box in her hand up to my face; "it is worth more than sixty pounds, and I'm sure it isn't safe for you to carry it."

"Who knows I carry it?" I laughed, as I packed it into the long inner pocket of my overcoat. Besides it will be worth less when I bring it back, so the danger will be less. Cheer up. Oh, George! its nearly dark al- There's no other conveyance in the

ready," broke in Annie, pitcously, as place."
she shudderingly turned in from the "No" sure after attending to business all the week you ought to be left to rest and enjoy yourself on Saturday evening.

"None at all, except my own pony, sir. I couldn't possibly let you have him, because he's got to carry me

left to enjoy your Christmas Eve.
"I shall enjoy it, dear," I said, as cheerfully as if the words were not an cheerfully as if the words were not an asked, appealing in desperation to the miners. "I will pay you anything you miners. "I will pay you anything you Miners' Arms, and one or two other night." things. If it had been an engagement begged off; but you see, dear, it is the beginning of a year's engagement which I should not like to lose. In-

cept its disadvantages," fretted Annie. "I will explain once more, dear," I answered, knowing she would like the few minutes' delay, though I believe it is the hundred and fiftieth time I have waiting for and vainly expecting me; done so. Twelve of the men at the Bog mines have formed a club, which mas morning for her if I did not keep is to meet on the night of every fourth my promise. True, I could not be Saturday at a little public house called home at midnight to let in the Christ-Saturday at a little public house called home at midnight to let in the Christ-the Miners' Arms. Here I am to join mas for her as I had promised; but the them with a good choice of silver watches on approval. They each pay to me ten shillings, then draw lots, and and prevent it breaking sadly and the winner has a watch of the value of six pounds. There will be one winner shrunk from a tifteen miles' walk, even every night, and one watch sold, so at | in the dark; so I said good-night to | the end of the year each member will the miners with a laugh, which was have a watch. They all go on paying intended to prevent their laughing at through the year, but those who draw what they evidently thought a Quixthe lots of course get one less in num-ber every month. Any one can have a while they called a "good-night, sir,"

watch of higher value than the six cheerily after me. pounds by paying extra, so I take I hope you see the advantages now, ry will make the best of it, even on a bitter December night."

planation as she had been before. "think of my having to spend Christmas Eve here all alone."

be home at midnight to let you in the of whitening highway; anything to but I was not without a sickening fear "I don't believe you will, George. They will keep you, or it will snow, or something; and it is a long fifteen miles drive each way. You can't be

sure to be at home.' down-hearted you are; I don't think I ever saw you so before."

sad all night, George."

"No, you won't love, because I shall behind me hastened too. be home by twelve to let in the Christmas. There, that's a promise, and you within sight or earshot. I had valuaknow whether I've ever broken a prom- | ble property about me, and not even a

me, and I drew up my horse before the the second man broke in, and I felt I low public house where I was to meet | could detect the voice of the hostler the club. All the members had assem- who had told me of the lameness of my bled in a long, well-lighted room, with horse, a sanded floor and an immense fire roaring in the chimney. While I stood the use of talking to him? He's only strength seemed left to me. I could mind is wandering, so I only tell him. before it, restoring life to my petrified got to hand over he watches; we want not look up now, as I pressed on soothingly, that the dog is all right. dozen men who had their places at the table, and I voted them a set of kindly, lilv. table, and I voted them a set of kindly, now and I voted them a set of kindly, now see what we want, now noisy fellows. But as the evening wore on I modified my opinion. One or two were sullen and moody, thwart- or two were sullen and moody, thwart- I saw one thing plainly enough. It I saw one thing plainly enough. It is a work of the storm had influenced the sunday of the storm had influenced to the storm had been storm had be ing every amendment, and drinking a would be of no use to me to feign iggreat deal in a kind of gruff and greedy norance of what they meant, so I simwarm them; but, even in their thick would betray the alienation of his then I sat and waited in the silence. One or two were boisterous and contradictory, dropping ready oaths continually from their lips, and bringing down their fists heavily upon the deal table to enforce their rough and noisy words. And others were miners, with their masked faces and make any way, fighting on in the teeth but no dog is there. I close the door

which is rare indeed among the Bog mines. How could I help being glad when this man drew the lucky lot, and this proposal at once, objecting strong-ly to it on principle, and the watch

I believe I said it as coolly went slowly the round of the table for admiration, while its owner took this to tell the ostler-who was a friend of words. his-that he had won it. I did not hot supper-at which I was a heartily ahead, mate."

"Lame! What on earth-" But my exclamation of incredulity and astonishment were only met by the stolid assurance that the horse was

life was worth for me to take him out to-night. I simply could not and would ble; most, if not all, of the company gig stood waiting, and the December following me. Well, there the horse lay, "dead lame," as the ostier nad said. There was no chance of his takhood at a farm without understanding a little about horses, and I felt certain that there had been foul play here. I could have sworn that a pick had been

run into the flesh under the knee, and I knew that the animal was useless frantically at the ruffians, they seized indeed now. I could not prove the deed, of course, but I felt almost as round with thin cord, piercing the confident of it then as I did four hours afterwards, when I could teel certain who had done it.

"You'll have to stay here till morning, sir." the landlord said, "We'll make you as comfortable as possible. "Impossible!" I answered, thinking a hundred thoughts at once. "But isn't it a case of necessity,

"No horse!" I exclaimed, knowing I open doorway. "People oughtn't to could not for a moment entertain the hold clubs on Christmas Eve. I'm proposal of staying.

And I'm doubly sure that after attend- twenty miles as soon as it's daylight, ing to it all the year you ought to be left to enjoy your Christmas Eve."

No; no one had a horse at my disfor this one night only I might have posal, or at his own either; and they

could but join in mine host's persua-sinus to me to sleep at the Miners' Arms. "Even if the horse is incapable in the morning, sir," they said, "and deed it may go on for years, and we are not rich enough quite yet to care to refuse a good prospect. Eh, love?"

"I don't know anything about it, ex"I don't know anything about it, exit's likely to be a frightful night. Not for one moment, though, did I hesitate when I thought of Annie; of

drearily for my wife. I never yet had

naturally does on a long solitary walk. But presently the snow bedear, as well as the disadvantages, and gan to fall; and, though it was but slight at first, the quiet, pleasant thoughts were soon dispersed; and so "George—but George," whined An- I sang aloud for company, shouting nie, as dismal after my satisfactory ex- lustity to keep myself warm as well as that, I whistled old familiar airs, and "Only a few hours, after all. I shall thing to shorten the long, long stretch stand and answer to in the old days;

deaden the cutting, piercing blast of the night wind.
I should think I had gone a couple of miles when I heard footsteps on the road behind me. My first impulse was "I can, and will, dear. Why, how traveler who might be journeying on to turn and wait for the society of any my way; but my second was to quickea my steps with a nameless fear. "I shall be so dreary and lonely and This impulse I followed resolutely, yet blindly; but as I hastened on the steps

ise to you. Now let me go. The shop is to be shut early that the men may dom fool I had been in starting at all seen in my old favorite's, and then is to be shut early that the men may dom fool I had been in starting at all seen in my old favorite's, and then enjoy their Christmas beef and pud-from the Miners' Arms to-night. I walked on beside me, so close beside ding and songs. But I hope they will have dispersed before I come home at midnight."

Irom the Millers Arms to-night. I saw it all, with a flash of pain and despair, as the steps behind steadily gainmy hand. Silently and watchfully he I drove on until the mines were round Before his insolent speech was ended,

"That's it," said the first man, read-

and kindness; quite the most pleasant, the most genial, and the most intelligent man there. He behaved to me, gent man there is a supplied by the strong wind drifting it is the strong wind drifting wind wind too, with a certain quiet respect which and chain; we happen to know they're my knees; and the gale rose, and the but it seems to me that I have never most of the others dispensed with, and worth having. Come, do it at once or snow fell faster every minute. Anoth- seen one so near dead as this. it'll be the worse for you."

"I wonder whether you understand won as beautiful an English lever as all taken?" I said, as easily as I could. had set their hearts on it. I negatived wish the watches anywhere then but me.

opportunity of going out into the yard the impsessed by the import of my all up a little further on. Good, hope-couch on the kitthen hearth; then I

"We'll settle all that between our-

welcomed guest—and the steaming "Come, look here, you fellows," I punch which followed it, I drew on began, with a sudden attempt at cool my overcoat again and buttoned it defiance, "I know you both well snugly and safely across my chest with enough, and can swear to you before the box in its long inner pocket. Just then the ostler came in to me with a think it would be the wisest plan to go would have done all that they could. puzzled face. My horse was lame, he off before youv'e seven years' transtold me; "dead lame, and would not portation to look forward to?"

"Leave those little personal affairs for us to settle," sneered the miner; "we'll look after ourselves when we leave you to-night. Come, look sharp that we ain't tempted to make your lame, and it would be as much as his swearing to us rather harder than you wheels rapidly overtaking me, and I could wish. Don't you see that we're not believe it, and hastened to the sta- strength, and there's no help within a couple of miles?"

"Now then, mate, stop that ridiculous dawdling," put in the other man, deep snow. My hands were now dead sullenly, "I won't wait a minute long- to all feeling; I could not distinguish ing me home that night, at any rate. er dawdling here in the cold. As he I had not lived through all my boy- won't hand the things out without any fuss, we'll do it all for him, and do it sharp. Tie up his mouth with the handkerchief and pass me the cord." My mouth was gagged in an instant, as it seemed to me; and, while I fought

> flesh until the blood came.
> "I've got 'em safe enough and I'il tie 'em so," muttered one fellow, with a jeering laugh, while the other had his great ugly hands tight on the breast of my coat, "Hold hard one moment," a great black mastiff, his shaggy head raised, and his sharp gray eyes shining overwhelming. raised, and his sharp gray eyes shining in the dim, weird gloom of the snowy night. He hesitated a moment before he reached us; then, with the shrill bark with which a mastiff generally prepares himself for an attack, he rushed upon the fellow who was hold-rushed upon the fellow! You want rushed upon the fellow who was hold-rushed upon the fellow! You want rushed upon the fellow who was hold-rushed upon the fellow who was waiting anxiously upo stood with his fore paws on his neck and chest. Shall I ever forget the man's abject, craven fear, as the dog's fierce eyes met his so closely; as the later than the fierce eyes met his even h

own ghastly cheek?" "Call your bloodhound off," cried the other man, drawing back from me in terror. Of course I saw it was best that they should think, as they naturally would that the dog was mine: so I answered with a light, satirical laugh, "You lon't know much of mastiffs if you

think that such a one as that would let his master be waylaid. With a word. I can have you sprawling there beside your rascally companion." I spoke it confidently enough, feeling that both my life and property were safe; but I could not help hoping he would not force me to prove my words. "Call him off," he cried again, shivering as he looked at the dog, who-

evidently and unmistakably ready to spring to the assault in a moment, as nately with the lethargy which held only a mastiff can-watched every me. Was my faithful dumb guide movement of one man, while he held the other, his great shaggy-haired chest heaving quickly. "You'd be safer, you and your cursed

accomplice, if you were ten miles away now," I said, almost jauntily. "Now, then, sir, take him off," the man answered, suddenly affecting a jocund innocence. "We were only frightder you didn't understand that from the first. Take your dog off, please, and let us get back; we've been long enough over a joke."

Seeing that the man's fear was most thorough and unfeigned, I looked the cheerful. And, when I was tired of dog steadily and kindly in the face and whistled. I knew that it was such a stand and answer to in the old days; that the animal, knowing me a stranger, would ignore my call, and so perhaps make his rescue of no effect. Slowly he shook his great black head and shaggy breast, raised his fore feet deliberately one at a time, and turned to join me. The man on whom he had been standing still lay prostrate in the snow, too much terrified to attempt to

rise while the animal was near. "Good dog! noble fellow!" I whispered in a low, caressing tone, which I knew that dogs were keen to understand and quick to appreciate. He

me, or of a dead and gone Duval run- and present y two men overtook me, before after only a three miles' walk. pass down the narrow stairs as quickly me, or of a dead and gone Duval running away with my property?"

And you promise to come and let in the Christmas for us, George?"

"I promise, yes. Now good-bye in reality."

I took my seat in the gig and drove off rapidly to make up for lost time, kissing my hand to Annie as she stood in the lighted doorway watching me in the light watch and presently two men overtook me, one joining fine on either side. Their dates with black crape, and twelve miles to come. I threw away the match I had lighted to enable me to read the figures on the miles even yet, and twelve miles even yet, and twelve miles to come. I threw away the match I had lighted to enable me to read the figures on the milestone, and the other door, and there, in the light which the snow gives, I see a man lying alone and dead upon the other door, and there, in the light which the snow gives, I see a man lying alone and dead upon the white expanse of deepening snow, and wishing with all my heart that I had been an habit-nead the light watch as I can in my laneness and my feeble old age. Without waiting for a light. I open the outer door, and there, in the figures on the miles to come. I threw away the match I had lighted to enable me to read the figures on the miles to come. I threw away the match I had lighted to enable me to read the figures on the with a second of the watch I had lighted to enable me to read the figures on the with a second of the watch I had lighted to enable me to light which the snow gives, I see a man lying alone and dead upon the watch I had lig kissing my hand to Annie as she stood in the lighted doorway watching me off. Down the gaily lighted High street, through the busy, slatternly suburbs, then out into the wide, chill burbs, then out into the fireless, cheerless burbs, the watch. My can it that I had been an habitund tenderness—a sob of pain rushing up from my heart at sight of him—and the direct of the fire which burned had a pipe with me up from my heart at sight of him—and the direct of the fire which burned had way take him into the fire which burned had way take him into the fire which burned had way take him into the fire which burned had way take him into the fire which burned had way take him into the fire which burned had way the chimment of the wide had a pipe with me up from my heart at sight of him—and the direct of the fire which burned had way the chimment of the wide had a pipe with me up from my heart at sight of him—and the direct of the fire which burned had a pipe with me u snow before it; and through this I fought on until it seemed to me I must have been battling so a whole night. Yet, probably, it was not more than the man lying there in the snow had an hour, and I had made no progress

against a wind that literally seemed to scream as it passed me, and drifted the to the door with a piteous smile, "Is "You see what we want," he snow in heaps against the gates and he your dog? He has been very good make any way, fighting on in the teeth but no dog is there. I close the door

er hour's painful effort. The glaring snow lay all around me, unbroken by

"Little use, I fear, old fellow." I believe I said it as coolly as any said, thankfut to hear the sound of my one could under the circumstances; own voice, and resting my hand on his but I could see that the men were lit- soft warm head; "it is only to give it

On and on, and still no house in all wonder at this at the time, but after- selves," the hostler said, with a grat- the wide expanse. My pace had slackwards I understood it. I put up the ing chuckle; "and as you don't seem ened to a crawl, and all hope of reachremaining eleven watches and packed inclined to hand that box over peacea- ing home was gradually dying within and tied the box. After enjoying the bly, we'll just help ourselves. Go me. I knew well what fate awaited me unless I could reach a human habitation soon. I knew that the fatal temptation to sleep was creeping over me and I feared I had not strength to battle with it and save my life. any judge in England. Don't you a little further and my perished limbs

Starved, benumbed and sleepy I struggled on in the teeth of the storm, my eyes blinded, my steps clogged, and always growing upon me that irresistible longing to sleep, against which I fought with every power of mind and body. Sometimes I fancied I heard would stop in sudden hope; but a motwo of us, each with twice you're ment served to show me it was only the peculiar effect of the wind, and that if they could have traveled, on the what I touched when I laid my fingers ceased." on the dog beside me. My sight, too, was surely going. I saw the faithful mastiff only as a dim blot upon the dazzling white. I began to fancy that, though I could see no house in all the wide expanse of glaring snow, there might be one even close to me which I

great babyish longing came over me to cry—to cry, with the leicles talek upon And now all my strength was exhausted, and without knowing at all how far I still was from home I knew that the end of my work had come. Just as the man spoke, and tied the first link in the cord, there came toward where the snow was deep and soft, I clothes, I let him go at last. God per- ly. "Be good to him and feed him be deducted from the time heretofore Just as the man spoke, and tied the Under some sheltering bank, perhaps, would rest. I was worn out and must | don me if I have not done what I can | and warm him.

half buried in the snow, I fell. I felt pray ceaselessly that he may not be throwing him down upon his back, all the pain and anxiety going from me dog's white fangs gleamed between his so. The dog, which had until that mo- lame to take him to his journey's end, drawn lips, and his angry panting ment kept close beside me, ran at the to the home where I knew there must breath rose and fell upon the man's gate and leaped it, while I watched be a young wife dearly loved. A moears, growing more and more confused. My eyes were closed and the snow and moves his weak hands, softly and flakes covering them, when with an cager bark the dog put his head through the bars of the wide gate (scattering as idea, though unnatural, will come into he did so the snow that lay deep on my head as I watch him-almost as if them) and pulled my coat, shaking it hastily and impatiently. I was only dreamily conscious of his motive, and it was more to avoid the worry than to obey him that I rose with one last effort, climbed the gate and tottered on beside my guide. And now I seemed to crawl through, as well as over, the snow that had drifted here deeper than out in the highway; and for the last time battled fiercely and determileading me to human help? I prayed

aloud as I stumbled on that it might be so-prayed wifile I could feel that the power was still mine, knowing it would soon desert me; but I fancy there was little sound from my stiff lips. "Is help near, good dog, strong, faithful fellow? No; all white and desolate. White fields-with just faint signs of where—the hedge-rows rnn.
What a wide—solitary—place—to die.
Good dog! Brave friend!—leading me

wide-white-" SECOND NARRATIVE. worn face. I kneel before him, keeping my Christmas Vigil. Midnight has passed four hours; but I cannot years I cannot remember such a sudden fast. If was no use my listening for and terrific gale before. I wonder how his step-I knew he would leave his

long this comparative calm will last. horse and gig at the livery stables and Hark! It is broken already by a strange walk up the sfreet-yet 1 did listen sound without, a sound I cannot un- with every power I possessed as I sat derstand. Is it the quick, eager bark listening there alone—did listen for a of a dog? No; it is a human cry for help. footfall which must be soundless on

whisper. "Where's the dog?"
I had looked round searchingly while the door was open, wondering whether "Come, shut up!" he said. "What's worth speaking of, though very little been no dog with him. I see that his been alone, and so I know there had

all I noticed one most particularly; quickly; "it only wates time and we and my strength exhausted. Faster a slight young fellow, with a delicate, should not have felt surrest above his companions in cordiality don't care to part anch in this eli- and thicker the snow fell now, and handsome face, which has a certain mass deather where the snow fell now, and handsome face, which has a certain mass deather where the

be tried to the uttermost. I take my brother down in a blanket to the old pile dry sticks in the grate, and soon have a cheerful, crackling fire to help me, and to comfort him. Then I go up stairs again to my invalid, and, taking one hand or foot at a time out of bed, I chafe it with dhe snow I have brought in a bowl. As soon as the fire is ready. and I have prepared it. I dose him, still unconscious, with a cup of hot mint tea. He has been in bed almost an hour

look into my face. "Where am I?" he stammered, "Have I been to let in the Christmas?" I feel that the words are still the delirious wandering of a sick man, so only soothe him as best I may, and tempt him to another cup of the strong. hot tea. He rises, with sudden, feverish strength, and gropes for his clothes. "I must go on at once," he says, speaking almost clearly. "Thank you, but I must go on now, home. The anxiety no wheels could have been heard, even will kill my wife. Has the day dawn-

for three hours yet; but the storm has "Thank God! I shall be in time."

No need to tell of my useless persuasion, entreaties, commands, repeated again and again. They are of no avail. Every plea I urge is turned aside, every argument is disregarded, every persuasion falls unheeded on his ear. As long my wrists and bound them round and should pass unknowingly; and then a as I can I keep him, and it is almost by force; but my weak old will is conquered by his stendfastness of purpose, and I am obliged to let him rise and dress. He would put on his own soaked and frozen clothes-which I have hung before the fire, and the steam from which fills the kitchen-but in this matter it hastening to his deach; and once more slowly, with an old movement which is covered with the dangerous snow. I go back into my house, too anxious to think of going to bed myself, too much trouble to be at rest save as I tell

THIRD NARRATIVE.

I had never in my life spent such a lonely evening before. I think I never felt so unaccountably depressed; yet I knew it would not last long, because George had promised to be home with me at midnight, and he had never broken his promise to me once since we had known each other first. This expectation took me on through the long ours which he and I ought to have been spending encertaily and merrily to-help-and-and-rescue. How it together, I went down stairs to bid all swims and trembles-the-great- our men good-night, and wish them "a merry Christmas," as they dispersed after their gay evening; then I hurried back gladly to the sitting room, stirred the fire, re-arranged the coffce-cups, My poor brother is sleeping like an and put George's slippers exactly in infant. There lingers not in this sleep the right place for him, for midnight even a shadow of suffering on the dear, was striking from twenty clocks at once-as every hour does on our premnow. I sent the servants to bed. No weary of my prayers to-night, feeling one should let in the Christmas until so grateful for my brother's ease, feel- George brought it, though we had aling so deeply in my own calm heart the ways done it before while the clocks peace and promise of the Christmas were striking and the church bells morning. I can hear no longer the ringing. The bells were ringing now, crying of the night wind, as it drives of course, yet I could not hear them for the snow before it against my win-dows. The fury of the storm has worn the house, and scattered wildly and itself out. Through all my eighty weiredly the snow that was falling so

have dispersed before I come home at midnight."

"Quite sure you'll be home, then?"
pleaded Annie, still detaining me.

"Quite sure, my anxious little daring. What troubles you this evening? Are you afraid of that funeral-looking quadruped outside running away with me or of a dead and gone Duval runs.

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"Are you afraid of that funeral-looking quadruped outside running away with me and my folytsteps, though fear was not a usual en ation with me. The tread below, even when feed upon me. I harried on, trying to walked, his step utterly noiseless on runbing against the cotage door. Something against the cotage doo

they passed my very heart-bests cease. helpless watching. I knew that nothing weamen cannot make it known. which I could have been suffering then with George would have been so hard for me to bear as this was. I wished I had kept one of the servants up, but "Let him in," he says, moving back I shrank from calling her. I had sent thinking that more unbearable than the rolling of the savage wind had been. I could wall the servants up now, and words to say, and a very deliberate way of saying them. But among them what we say, the arst man put in traveled the road would be impassable can carry him up the stairs. He is but if they had told me that I was dying I ed worn and white, as if I had been ill

longer in the doubt and suspense. Surely I could start now. I tried to His clothes are frozen; his fingers open the shutters, but my fingers tremare stiff and shrunken, with no sensabled so helplessly that I hurt them in that the descriptions and numbers are all taken?" I said, as easily as I could, just still for the purpose of gaining on against the killing blast of the gale.

Show any an around me, unbroken by a restmand shrunken, with no sensation in them at all, and his eyes are fearfully bloodshot. I carry him to our room and undress him: then I take went out upon the stairs, I heard a one need wish to see? But, with a just still for the purpose of gaining on against the killing blast of the gale, our room and undress him: then I take went out upon the stairs, I heard a hearty cordiality the man offered to time; and I wonder whether you unhave the lots drawn again; he could derstand that the police will be at once wait, he said, and some of his mates on the track of the thieves? You'll footing, and always the dog waited for of bed, and lay the poor unconscious did I doubt that I should see him first gentleman in his warm place. There when I opened the door. My tingers is but slight chance of my being able did not tremble now. I could draw to save his life; but that chance must | back the heavy boits and unfasten the chain. The faces in the street would be bright and fresh-full of happiness to begin the Christmas Day-what would George think of mine when he met it? The door was wide open; the chill, gray light crept into the hall : and in an instant I forgot my own pale face. One look at my husband had chased everything else from my head, Deathly, ghastly white, he stood propped against the doorway, gazing at me vacantly and wistfully. His clothes— which looked all different from what I when he wakes to consciousness, and had ever seen them before-hung about starts up with a wandering, agonized him, torn and frozen and bloodstained; his head and one foot were bare; his hands—groping feebly toward me—were gray and wrinkled. I put my

> And what did it signify whose eyes could see us? "George, George, my love," I whispered, as I almost carried him in-for my strength seemed to grow tenfold when I saw his weakness-"home at last." I could not utter one word of "Not yet. It will not be daylight look which I should recognize into the

are so-so cold-and-and-" here, in frightened throbs and kisses. the line of any railroad or other pub-"A happy Christmas, darling." The tone was so unlike my hus-band's bright and cheesful tone that I

step would kill me! Don't forget the dog, Annie." whispered George, slowly, rising in settler shall have served in the Army,

sleep; the desire was irresistible and to keep him. I have tried and failed; and I begin to think there may be some ingly into his dim eyes. I had given disability incurred in the line of duty.

Annie; from robbers-from starvation settler who has not resided upon, im--and from—death in sleep. Be good proved and entity ted his said home to him, dear." "Indeed, indeed I will." The wans ter he shall commence his improvedering eyes were a little quieter now, ments as aforesaid.

"Home now-in time to bring inthe Christmas morning. Yes, just in der the provisions of the foregoing secment kept close beside me, ran at the gate and leaped jt, while I watched him sleepily, sorry he should leave me, ran at the be a young wife dearly loved. A mother limited by the standing at the standing at the saved me, to be in the low leave me, rate he head left me standing at time. A happy—Did I say it—Annie?" yet powerless to entice him back, gate, he hesitates. I see a pleased, slow With a great sob—a sob which made than one hundred and sixty acres, shall me shiver as if struck with death—he be permitted to enter under the provi-

fell back lifeless on the pillow. The crocuses are blooming in our spring air, and watch how the woods saw the gentle, happy smile upon his lips, the greatful gladness in his eyes; the title, then I let the little one be carried Sec. 4. That where a party at the watching are over now; I can recall that night even with gratitude; but

THE BARBERRY FOR HEDGES. a curve at first, then assume a perpen-dicular, the top of the common stand tivation of the first tract, and his abrising each year till a height of ten feet | sence therefrom in such service. is attained, after which there appears no further increase of height. In breadth, each stand of caues reaches within the provisions of this net may about two feet at eight years old. I as well by an agent as in person, enter think the plants should be set about upon said homestead! Provided, That fourteen inches apart. There is no dif- said claimant in person shall, within ficulty in growing plants from the seed. the time prescribed, commence settleby planting either in fall or spring, ment and improvements on the same,

As to the barberry for a strong, enduring and every way sufficient live the General Land Office shall have an-fence. I am unable to think of any cause thority to make all needful rules and of failure. I have often pointed out to regulations to carry into effect the profarmers my several barberry stands, visious of this act, and asked their opinions as to whether they would turn stock. In every case they have said it would be imposs-

But when I try to recall the hours as graves secrets that would kill say mon. Woman never tells; man always does. The anguish of that night I know will The woman suffers and dies; man blabs live through all life the long, vain, and lives. Men cannot keep a secret; is sport to the man is death to the woman, Adam was a sneak. Evewould have kept the apple a sceret. Be re fruitful. Who ever heard a woman talk about her love fiascos? papa's consent, and some more apple Everybody has heard a man gossip. Man delights in telling of his illicit. conquests; woman would cut out her tongue first. Men boast, women dou't. Men are coarse in their cinb room talk; plumply said: "For my own part, I women refined in their parlor conver- love men, individually and collectively, sation. Who ever heard of a women telling of her lovers? Who has not listened to the dissipation of the men? me, would utter their real scattments. Women never tell tales out of school; I san more anxious for man's elevago myself to find George, for the dawn men are always babbling. So down tion and improvement than woman's, had come at last. I knew that I look- with another old adage. Woman can and so is every (rug woman," keer, secret, and her ability to do so John's (Newfoundland) girl, who did show, compared with the deep and not tell her lover she was worth four unicknown as

THE NEW HOMESTEAD LAW.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Bill. The following is a copy of the bill . just passed by Congress to enable hon-

orably discharged sailors and soldiers, their widows and orphan children, to acquire homesteads on the public hands of the United states. As this paper will be devoted to the interests of the settlers in Sedgwick and surrounding counties, it is particularly gratifying to be able to present so important measure in the first issue: It reads:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every private soldier and officer who has served in the army of the United States in the recent rebellion for ninety days, or more, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loyal to the Government, including the troops mustered into the service of the United States by virtue of the third section of an act entirted "An act making appropriations for completing the defences of Washington, and for other purposes," approved February thirteenth, eighteen handred and sixty-two, and every seaman and arms round him in sudden terror. I marine, and officer who has served in think I felt that he was going from me. the Navy of the United States or in the Marine Corps, during the rebellion, for ninety days, and who was honorably discharged, and has remained loval to the Government, shall, on compliance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act to secure homestends to actual settlers on the public domain" questioning, far less of doubt; could and the acts amendatory thereof, as only try to cheer him, and bring some hereinafter modified, be entitled to enlook which I should recognize into the ter upon and receive patents for a wandering eyes. "Home at last, dear quantity of public lands (not mineral) George; and I've a beautiful fire, and exceeding one hundred and sixty acres hot coffee, and chops; but I think or one quarter section, to be taken in brandy will be best now-because you compact form according to legal subcompact form according to legal subdivisions, including the alternate re-But my weak attempt broke down served sections of public lands along lie works, not otherwise appropriated, and other lands subject to entry under the homestead laws of the United dared neither answer or look up. 1 States : Provided, That said homestend was literally carrying him now up the light stairs—I who that morning ter locating his homestend within would have said that to carry him one which to commence his settlement and which to commence his settlement and improvement: And provided, also,

That the time which the homestead stead for a period at least one year af-

SEC. 2. That any person entitled unsions of this act so much land as, when added to the quantity previously en-tered, shall not exceed one hundred

he were caressing a large dog. The fancy is born, perhaps, of his delirium, and it vanishes while my weak, dim and it vanishes while my weak, dim any person who would be entifled to a night's suffering and the long illness unmarried, or in ease of her death or eyes follow him into the white gloom of the night. The furious, crying wind followed. Ah! what a time that was! children, by a guardian duly appoint-Night and day I watched him fighting ed and officially accredited at the dewith his pain, until they shut the door partment of the laterior, shall be en against me, and I could only suffer titled to all the benefits enumerated in with him—oh how keenly!—in my this act and subject to all the provithoughts. When they let me go to him sions as to settlement and improveat last, the agony had worn itself out, ments therein contained: Provided, and in the utter exhaustion which fol- That if such person died during his lowed there was a kind of rest. I laid term of enlistment, the whole term of our little baby boy beside him, and his enlistment shall be deducted from

away, and I took my own place beside date of his entry of a tract of land unmy husband—the place that I never der the homestead laws, or subsequent-could bear to leave. My long fear and ly thereto, was actually enlisted and employed in the Army or Navy of the United States, his services therein shall George never speaks of it but with a in the administration of said homewondering awe which half bewilders stead laws, be construed to be equiva-me, and which I shall never be able to beat, to all intents and purposes, to a residence for the same length of time upon the tract so entered; Provided, That if his entry has been cancelled by reason of his absence from said tract Former says: "I have four stands of of the United States, and such tract the barberry hedge, eight years old— has not been disposed of, his entry each stand originally from a single shall be restored and confirmed: And seed. The canes of each stand now provided further. That if such tract number seventy to one hundred, thrown has been disposed of, said party may from a single centre, just as the twenty enter another tract subject to entry to thirty rye straws proceed from a under said laws; and his right to a patsingle grain. These canes proceed in ent therefor shall be determined by the

and keeping clear of weeds the first and thereafter fulfill all the requir-

ments of this act. Sec. 6. That the Commissioners of

TABLE D'HOTE ROMANCE. ible for any animal to go through, unless by violence compelled; and in such case an animal would prefer to attempt breaking down the strongest fence. The prickles, though small and and so black, I'd hand her cup of coffee, slender, are exceedingly hard and sharp. nor spill it down her back. I never and at right angles with the cane - would be wears of fetching juicy steak, each thus presenting a defense of fixed the tenderest prairie chicken, the goldenest cornenke. Oh, ko l to face her breathing, to list her CAN WOMAN KEEP A SECRET, whisper sweet, as timidly she asked me for some more soused pig's feet, Till my passion would consume me, Men say women can't keep a secret.
It is just the reverse; women can, men at her small feet kneeling, flinging down her corned beef bush, I'd breathe my love in accepts as excet as discussing pie, while she sat with sausage in her mouth, affection in her eye, Who cares for the head waiter, hearded and heavy and grim, when two lively eyes of hazel are looking down on him. Her head rests on my shoulder, her words like jeffy pass, as she murmurs, that

> A young women delegate in a recent Ohio convention of women suffragists, better than women; and so, I am sure, does every one of my sex, if they, like